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Defector blew the whistle on spy dust

INSIDE

WASHINGTON



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THE U.S. government was first informed of the KGB's use of chemical spy dust on U.S. diplomats in Moscow and the use of special transmitters on U.S. Embassy typewriters by its prized defector, Vitaly Dzhurichenko.

Dzhurichenko, 50, who crossed the Iron Curtain in Rome nearly six weeks ago, is believed to be the highest-ranking KGB defector in history.

He had worked for the U.S. government for at least a year before his defection, according to U.S. intelligence officials.

In addition to supplying names and details of Soviet espionage agents and operations in the West, one of the "family jewels" that Dzhurichenko gave the CIA to establish his "bona-fides" was the extent to which the Soviet secret police had penetrated U.S. security at the Moscow embassy, a top intelligence official disclosed.

As a result of his startling information, the U.S. was able to put a stop to an amazing gap in its embassy security that allowed the KGB to monitor all documents being typed on embassy typewriters and track the movements of U.S. Embassy officials through the use of spy dust and typewriter bugs.

The issue of security at the embassy in Moscow is emerging as a hot topic between the State Dept. and Congress as the summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev approaches.

A group of congressmen headed by Rep. Buddy Roemer (D-La.) are outraged over the fact that the Soviets had instant access to the movements, correspondence and private conversations of key U.S. diplomats through information provided by 200 KGB spies employed at various posts at the embassy.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Embassy in Washington operates freely, with no Americans employed in its compound.

The State Dept. recently agreed to a plan that would reduce the number of Soviet employees at the U.S. Embassy by 50 percent.

But a panel headed by Roemer is conducting a broad review of the operations at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and is planning to come up with new legislation that would require the State Dept. to fire all Russian employees and replace them with Americans.

U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hartman is vehemently opposed to the move.

Hartman, in town for the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, rushed over to Capitol Hill to head off the legislation.

But after a series of amazing disclosures to Roemer's group, Hartman did little more than strengthen their resolve to push ahead with the bill.

For example, Hartman disclosed that his own driver is a colonel in the KGB.

He said that he is well aware that the people who serve meals at his residence, and who can overhear sensitive diplomatic conversations, also are KGB agents.

Hartman revealed that the U.S. Information Agency's mailing list in Moscow, which lists all U.S.-sponsored cultural and educational events, is handled exclusively by Soviet employees.

This allows the KGB to keep track of all Moscow residents interested in American life.

But he implored Congress not to pass the legislation, saying that he would rather employ Soviets than Americans who might become targets of opportunity for the KGB.

American workers in Mos-

cow who might have drinking problems or sexual problems could be exploited by the KGB and turned into "double agents," Hartman told the committee.

A congressional source reacted to Hartman's argument by saying: "We now have a situation in which the U.S. government has lost total control of its own embassy security."

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